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(56) Documents Cited:
GB 2211079 A GB 0898490 A
GB 0877460 A GB 0345466 A
EP 0492429 A1 US 20020092213 A1

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UK CL (Edition W) A4G, B8F
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(54) Abstract Title: **An identification display system**

(57) An identification display system attachable to or integral with an item of luggage 1 or other container comprises a fixed panel 5 attached to or forming part of the item of luggage or other container, a media support member 4 having visual information thereon, a transparent cover member 3 and a fastening device 2, the identification display system being arranged such that the transparent cover member is secured to the fixed panel by the fastening device with the media support member being sandwiched there between.

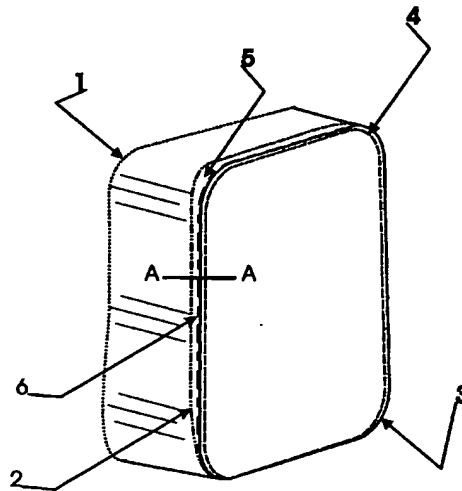


Figure 1

GB 2 404 333 A

1/2

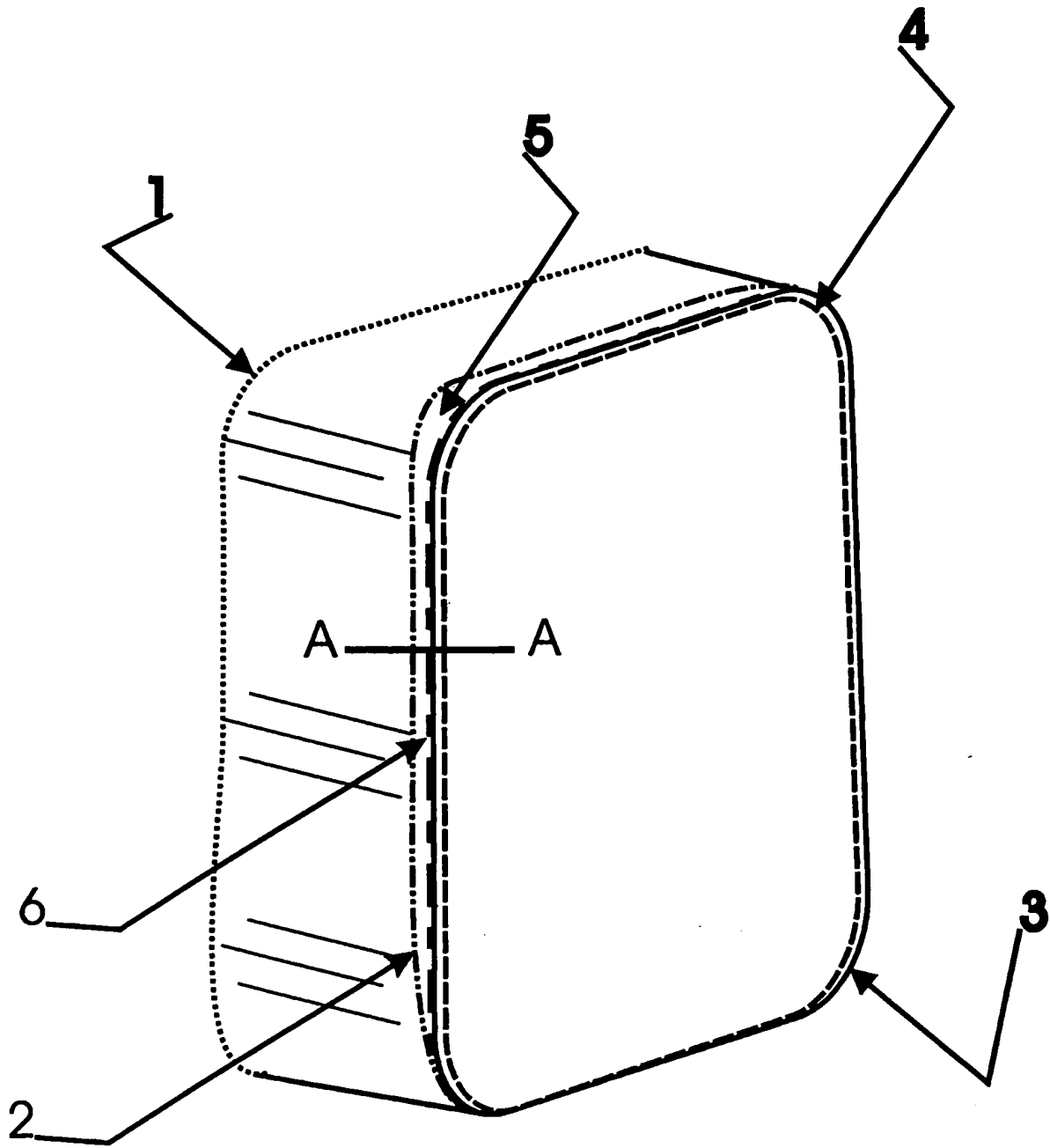


Figure 1

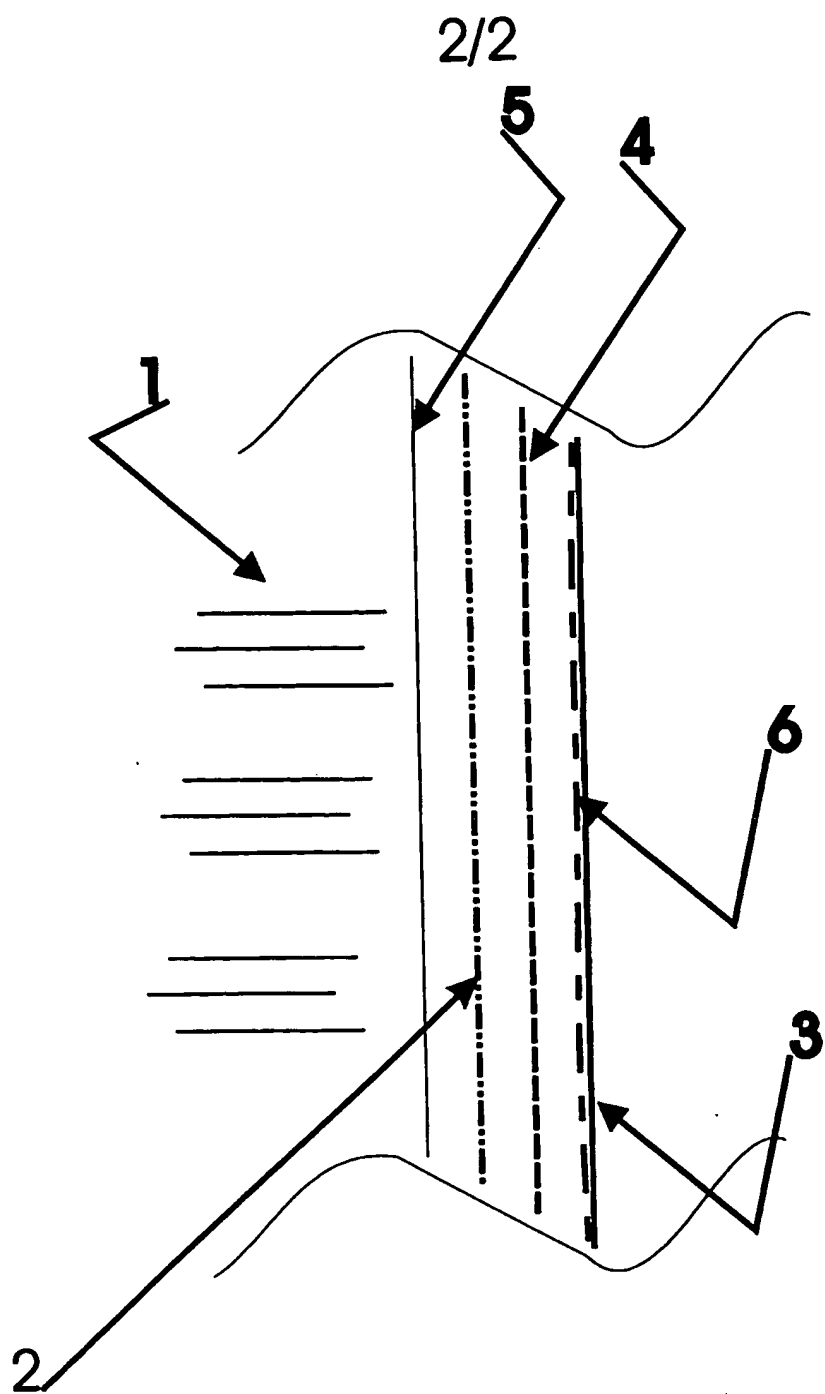


Figure 2

An Identification Display System

This invention relates to a system and method for identifying physical objects, such as items of luggage, constructed in such a way as to allow a wide variety of displays to be easily utilised.

There are a wide variety of systems for identifying luggage that suffer from several limitations. For example: difficulty in viewing from a distance; ease, or limit, of customisation available; problems associated with attaching the identifier to the item.

An object of this invention is to provide an identification system which can be applied to a wide variety of objects, is easily customisable and has good visual range.

Another object of this invention is to provide an easily scalable system which, by way of example, will be of use to parents of small children where the system could be on a child's bag and would allow the child to illustrate their own luggage.

Still a further object of this invention is too provide a system which will permit a wide range of media to be used on the display surface.

Accordingly, this invention provides an identification system including a transparent member, a media support member and a closure system affixed to the object, luggage, trunk, flight case and the like, in such a way to be easily displayed.

Preferably the identification system is made of material that is compatible with the luggage, or other container, that may be cloth, plastics, metal, wood materials or any combination of these materials. Advantageously the invention may be utilised with a wide variety of different shaped containers.

Other aspects of the present invention will become apparent to those skilled in the art upon reading and understanding the following detailed description of the preferred embodiment.

A preferred embodiment, by way of example only, of the invention will now be described with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

FIGURE 1 shows the whole system configured for the end panel of an article of luggage;

FIGURE 2 shows cross-section A to A illustrated on Figure 1.

As shown in Figure 1 the system comprises of a piece of, in this example, luggage 1 with a fixed panel 5. Attached to the rim of this panel is a fastening device 2. A transparent member 3 embodies a mating edge 6 to engage in the fastening device 2. A media support member 4 is of such dimensions as to fit snugly inside the transparent member 3 and against the fixed panel 5.

Figure 2 shows the cross section A to A of Figure 1 in an exploded diagrammatic form for clarity.

An image, which, by way of example only, could be a manually applied original work or machine printed, may be applied to the media support member 4, which as indicated, may be of various materials appropriate to the applying technology. The fastening device 2 is then closed with the media support member 4 inside thus enabling unique identification of the physical object.

The fastening device is of a type suited to each container construction which may be, by way of example only and not limited to, zip fasteners, plastic press seals, "Velcro"[®] type fixings or adhesive strips.

An alternative embodiment the media support member is bonded to fixed panel 5.

In another embodiment the media support member 5 is specially coated to take, by way of example, a "dry marker" type ink.

In another embodiment the media support member 4 may be hinged to any part of the edge of the fixed panel 5 or may be completely removable.

In another embodiment the transparent member 3 may be hinged to any part of the edge of the fixed panel 5, via the fastening device, or by direct attachment, or may be completely removable.

In yet another alternative embodiment the fastening device 2 is lockable.

CLAIMS

1. An identification display system comprising:
 - a fixed panel
 - a media support member
 - a fastening device
 - a transparent member
2. An identification display system of claim 1 wherein the media support member is hinged to the fixed panel
3. An identification display system of claim 1 wherein the media support member is removable
4. An identification display system of claim 1 wherein the transparent member is hinged to the fixed panel
5. An identification display system of claim 1 wherein the transparent member is removable
6. An identification display system of claim 1 wherein the media support member is combined with the fixed member
7. An identification display system of claim 1 wherein the media support member is specially coated to permit the application of specific media
8. An identification display system as claimed in any preceding claim which has a fastening device which is capable of temporary closure
9. An identification display system as claimed in any preceding claim which has a fastening device which is capable of permanent closure
10. An identification display system as claimed in any preceding claim which is made from cloth, plastics, metal, wood materials or any combination of these materials
11. An identification display system substantially as herein described above and illustrated in the accompanying drawings



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Examiner: Mr Mike Leaning

Claims searched: 1-10

Date of search: 9 August 2004

Patents Act 1977: Search Report under Section 17

Documents considered to be relevant:

Category	Relevant to claims	Identity of document and passage or figure of particular reference
X	1,3,5,8&10	GB898490 A (TAYLOR) Please see the figures and page 2 lines 35-56. An information display system comprising a pocket formed by the side of a bag and a removable transparent sheet 46 into which a media support member 42 may be slid, the media support member being retained in the pocket by a press-stud 44.
X	1,3,7,8&10	GB345466 A (GUNNILL) Please see the figures and the description from page 1 line 81 to page 2 line 15. A luggage identification system comprising a plywood fixed panel, a celluloid transparent member and an ivory tag fixed together by string passed through an eyelet.
X	1,5,8&10	US2002/0092213 A1 (CHIN) Please see figure 3 and paragraphs 13-15 of the description. A tag holder which may be attached to an item of luggage.
X	1,8&10	EP0492429 A1 (JUNEMANN) Please see figure 1. A display system comprising a fixed panel 2, a transparent panel 11 and a slide fastener 6 forming a pocket into which advertising media may be inserted.
A	-	GB2211079 A (M NEEDMANN OHG) Please see the figures. A carrier bag with a transparent pocket on one side into which advertising media may be inserted.
A	-	GB877460 A (LEWIS LTD) Please see the figures. A map pocket attached to a bag used by motorcyclists.



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Categories:

X Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step	A Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.
Y Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.	P Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.
& Member of the same patent family	E Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.

Field of Search:

Search of GB, EP, WO & US patent documents classified in the following areas of the UKC^W :

A4G; B8F

Worldwide search of patent documents classified in the following areas of the IPC⁰⁷

A45C; G09F

The following online and other databases have been used in the preparation of this search report

Online: WPI, EPODOC, JAPIO, TXTUS0, TXTUS1, TXTUS2, TXTUS3, TXTEP1, TXTGB1, TXTWO1.